

exalted ego of little learning seems to convince its dupes that they are born to heal for coin and their ignorance confirms the verdict.

The low opinion which some chiropractors have of the intelligence of the people is betrayed in their tiresome repetition of the false statement that the California State Board of Medical Examiners is composed of competitors of theirs and are therefore prejudiced against them. The action of the Board is subject to court review and the way to the courts is always open. But when the unlicensed chiropractors are haled before the courts, they object to court review. The ways of the transgressor are hard to understand.

Editorial Comment

On June 5, 1920, the records of the State Board of Medical Examiners showed 1150 practicing physicians in good standing in San Francisco.

In this, as in every other issue of the Journal, you are going to miss things of unusual value and interest, if you do not look through the entire Journal.

Will the Eddyites kindly bring forward one single case of proved syphilis cured by Eddyism alone? If they will do this, it will strengthen our wavering faith in their sincerity.

In connection with Dr. Rixford's article last month on Osteopathy, be sure to read in another column of this issue, "Why We Believe in Proper Medical Education."

The intimate relationship between the physician and industry was pointedly expressed in a recent lecture on industrial medicine by Dr. David Edsall, in San Francisco, when he said: "I think I never go into a factory of any kind without seeing *something* that has a direct relation to medicine."

A number of papers read at the Santa Barbara meeting have not yet been submitted to the Journal office. Will those who are dilatory, neglectful, or forgetful, please send in their papers at once?

In spite of the crowded condition of the Journal, physicians outside of Los Angeles and San Francisco are urgently requested to send in short reports of cases of special interest or difficult diagnosis. If you wish assistance on some obscure case, send in an outline and it will be discussed in the Journal by appropriate authorities. Your name need not appear if you so wish.

Social work has become a large and important specialty of medicine. A hospital or clinic without a social service department is sadly out of touch with modern medicine. The physician must not forget his obligation to translate his training

and experience into social terms through the medium of the social worker. Social service is the handmaid of modern medicine, and as such, must be rightly trained, rightly advised and rightly directed.

The managers of the State Charities Aid Association of New York, in asking the Governor to veto a bill recognizing chiropractors, state as follows: "No persons trained in anatomy and the treatment of disease recognize that there is any such thing as 'misplaced or displaced vertebrae' in the sense referred to. If a man is hanged, his vertebrae are very likely displaced. . . . The whole structure of chiropractic is built on an assumption which, according to the best information we can get, has no basis in known fact and is contrary to all accepted scientific teachings."

Special Articles

NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES

By H. A. L. RYFKOGEL, M. D., San Francisco, Cal.
ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT

For many reasons the members of the medical profession of California are singularly fortunate.

Their activities are carried on in one of the Earth's great Natural Gardens, in which mountain and vale, ocean and lake, orchard and meadow perpetually delight the eye and divert the worried mind.

Their patients and friends or their forebears came to California because the spirit of courage and adventure or love of the beautiful impelled them to leave their ancestral homes and carve out new fortunes and revitalize their souls in a strange and alluring environment.

Peoples from all the places of the Earth, here assembled and mutually intrigued by the seductive charm of their California, have developed an unconstrained familiar spirit from which has arisen that hospitable character which is so well-known the world over and makes life in this state complete, contented and happy.

The physicians of this state, like physicians everywhere, have been generous in individual personal service and when their reward has not been adequate the cause has not always been lack of appreciation on the part of the patient but often to neglect by the doctor of his business methods or to financial difficulty of the patient beyond his control.

They have not until recently, however, made serious attempts to give an organized communal service to the people as a whole.

The possibilities of civic service by an organized medical profession ramify in countless directions and his neglect of his very great responsibilities has resulted in the trained medical man the world over having no voice in legislative bodies.

Influence in the best sense is ever the reward of service and in so-much as an organized medical profession aids the people in the solution of the various problems that stand between them and bet-

ter health, so far the people turn to it for the further development of activities that banish diseases and prolong lives.

Happily the medical profession has the good fortune to have enemies who have roused them for their lethargy of civic inactivity, enemies who by venal methods have sought to retard new or even undo former legislation that tended to advance medical and sanitary science.

In this corrupt attack the most powerful ally has been ignorance on the part of the people and their legislative representatives and until recently there has been evolved no plan whereby the people could be informed of the real significance of measures affecting public health or medical education nor any scheme evolved whereby legislators could learn the action desired by their constituents when bills affecting the public health or the future advance of medicine were presented to them.

Forward movements in science, in education, in politics or religion have through the ages met with bitter opposition from those who worship things as they are and believe that any advance means damage to the social order or from the ignorant who believe that because they themselves lack knowledge, therefore every factor in human social existence should be pulled down to the level of their understanding.

The physician in dealing with patients and friends has often neglected invaluable opportunities for inculcating the scientific aspects of modern medicine and too often led them to believe in the mysterious powers of some extraordinary natural ability or the occult value of mystic remedies.

Common sense descriptions of the diseased condition present and a logical explanation of the treatment suggested are many times replaced by vague and abstruse suggestion of indefinite but appalling ills, the cure of which can be accomplished only by remedies whose workings are incomprehensible by the layman's intelligence or even the names of which disastrously affect his ailment.

It is not always a matter of astonishment that the sick man at times seeks one who proclaims his method more miraculous because it demands more of his credulity than those of the physician.

As a small dose of the mysterious seems good he thinks perchance a better solution of his difficulties is a larger dose.

To the man ignorant of the exact nature of his disease a thrust in the back which in some inscrutable fashion affects the nerves and thereby the diseased processes in a distant organ is as logical a treatment for his unexplained symptoms as a Latin prescription of unknown significance.

To the unfortunate neurotic whose symptoms may be due to disturbing influences in her mental environment or to failures in her psychic conflicts the mental anesthesia induced by the "all is good and God is all" of the Eddyist may be much more appealing than a diet and a dose of bromide.

A careful sympathetic discussion of symptoms and signs and a logical explanation thereof cannot but appeal to the patient; a rational explanation of the treatment proposed will certainly win

his confidence and will surely impress upon him the scientific methods of the physician as distinguished from the guess work of the cultist.

The average man especially when ill is more interested in himself than any other person or thing and through a thorough and thoughtful discussion of his ailment can be taught to take a common sense view of the need of a high standard in medical education.

Instead of telling a patient he has rheumatism in his ankle—is it not wise to say that he has an acute or chronic inflammation of the tissues of or around the joints, and that inflammation is the result of some form of injury which may be mechanical, bacterial or chemical and that the treatment must consist in the discovery and removal of the cause in the first place and the removal of exudates, deposits or new formation of tissues and restoration of normal circulation and function in the second: The physician who thus reasons with his patient at once develops a great opportunity to interest him further in the general subject of better medicine and hygiene.

How easy it is to explain to the receptive mind the necessity of examination of children for defects that might mar their future health or give some striking examples of the necessity of improved sanitation.

Instead of vituperative diatribes against the cultist why not seize the opportune moment of the consultation to teach that we ask only that those who treat the sick have practical knowledge of normal and diseased processes in order that the disasters that come from ignorance be not invited.

Give him a specific instance—tell of the influenza cases treated by prayers and trusting, but by wrong diagnoses allowed to leave their bed and wander around until pneumonia and death resulted—tell of the tubercular joints manipulated and the results—tell of the acute glaucomas prayed over until iridectomy could no longer save the sight—tell of the ruptured gastric ulcers, the obstructed bowels, the strangulated hernias manipulated, thrust, prayed, wished and even with occult passes waved over to the place from whose bourne no patient returns.

The physician should seize every available opportunity to explain the danger of vicious legislation that may be pending and in the present year we have because of certain exceptionally vicious measures to be voted on by the people an unusual excuse to contrast science with nescience in medicine.

The physician constantly deals with the problem of the individual and all his mental processes are developed toward their solution and the instruction of the single patient.

Accustomed to be the sole arbiter in matters submitted to him he becomes mentally autocratic and even intolerant in his attitude in matters relating to medicine.

He has not like the lawyer learned so to mold his thinking that it will influence groups and masses or has he learned that in order to educate and properly influence a population thorough organization is essential, and that an organization to be

efficient must employ specially skilled and loyal experts and command unwavering assistance in policies that have been planned by chosen officers even though at times he may disagree.

He forgets that executives must at times act on knowledge that must not be divulged for strategic reasons and is therefore inclined to criticize the plans of the organization.

In 1918 when the initiative suggesting an unsatisfactory method of sickness insurance came before the people, members of the profession realized that the proposed measure would degrade the profession and demoralize the public. An appeal was made to the physicians to organize and defend themselves. The success of this you know, but it became evident that it was necessary to organize and thoroughly drill from among the members of the medical profession a voluntary army who could devote themselves to the advancement of public medicine as represented by medical education, sanitary science, hospital improvement and industrial medicine.

The Publicity Bureau had already discovered the impossibility of converting the State society into an organization of this kind because societies that are primarily scientific and social must necessarily make a poor showing in any militant function that is thrust upon them.

A fighting mechanism whether to be a battleship, an army or an organization must be designed for the purpose of winning battles and the League for the Conservation of Public Health is the mechanism that the profession of California has constructed to win its battles for the development of a healthy citizenry and the success of medical ideals.

Already the League acting for the State Medical Society has accomplished extraordinary results and entered into many promising activities that will be of inestimable value to the people and the profession.

Just one example. The Medical Society of the State of California was asked by the American Medical Association and several national bodies to join with a committee selected by itself, the Dean of the Medical School of the University of California, the Dean of the Medical School of Stanford University, and the State Board of Health, to undertake the so-called standardization of the hospitals of the state. The council of the State Medical Society decided that the League for the Conservation of Public Health had the machinery and was best equipped to do this important work. It called upon the League, and the League responded. The functions and the facilities of the State Society were then transferred to the League for this specific purpose and the results have been most gratifying. The League has already obtained more practical, accurate and complete data on the hospitals of the State and the problems that confront them than any other organization, local or national, has been able to secure.

The League's program comprehends a gradual improvement and development of the progressive hospitals of the state to accomplish the maximum

of good for all. All hospitals of the state will be surveyed as rapidly as possible. The purposes of this survey is to determine the hospital facilities, the kind, character of construction, administration, equipment and quality of service each hospital is rendering in its particular community.

The information gathered is filed under the fifty-eight heads of the official hospital survey reports of the League. A duplicate of these reports covering each hospital is sent to the American Medical Association. I could quote at length from many splendid endorsements which this work has received from the American Medical Association, but will only include this brief commendation from our highest authority. "I appreciate very much the thoroughness with which you are investigating the hospitals of California and wish that in some way equally fair organizations and equally competent inspectors might be procured in other states." I wish to add to this my own personal commendation. The ability, industry and thoroughness of Doctors Musgrave, Ophuls, Whipple, Fulton and Black, are well known to all of you, and the work that they are doing through the machinery of the League makes for better medicine and better hospitals. American Medical Association has stated that the hospital betterment movement is the most important problem to solve and the paramount work before the medical profession today. It should be a source of deep gratification to all of us that the medical profession of California has taken an advanced position on this important subject.

Before closing I must call your attention to the untiring loyalty and efficiency on the part of your executive officers. For the first time in the history of the society a systematic campaign has been inaugurated by the Publicity Bureau for the increase in the membership of the society.

Dr. Kenyon will tell you in the report of the Council to the House of Delegates how highly successful this has been.

Efforts have also been made to devise methods of increasing the attendance at the County Societies, and I believe much further work should be attempted along this line.

Large attendance means increased interest, increased interest means augmented membership and improved organization.

I suggest a study of the methods of the many societies throughout the U. S. and investigation of our own county units in order that plans for increasing the value of the societies to their members may be devised.

The meeting of the State Society should be more largely attended. 20% is not a sufficient representation. Methods to make the meeting even more attractive should be planned and some of the Society funds can and should be placed in the hands of the program committee for expenditure at the time of the annual meeting.

Your committee on Industrial Accident Insurance with Dr. Parkinson as chairman has done a great deal of work. The members have given much time, traveled and devoted enormous amounts

of thought and energy to the solution of the problems involved.

I have been present at several of their meetings and conferences as well as at the regular and special meetings of the Society where the subject was discussed.

In its report the committee submits a substantial increase in rates, greatly simplified report blanks for general use, and makes the statement that the carriers would welcome the appointment of a standing committee from the Society to which all matters in dispute between the companies and the profession would be referred and would in turn appoint one themselves to co-operate.

The attorney of your Society, Hartley Peart, has as usual given up unselfishly not only his time but his very best thought and more especially a loyal friendship accompanied by a loving understanding of medical ideals, medical ambitions and medical men. I ask you to listen especially carefully to his report.

No claimant has been found entitled to any judgment against any member of the Society during the past year for alleged acts of negligence. Those members of the Society who have joined the Indemnity Defense Fund have the satisfaction of knowing that the resources of the Fund have remained unimpaired except for two small settlements from the time that this co-operative protection was established in December, 1916.

During the year the membership in the Fund has very greatly increased. Those of you who have not joined it should not hesitate longer before doing so. You owe it to yourself and your family to secure this protection which we believe to be superior to any other, and even though you may be insured in private companies you should add to that insurance a membership in the Fund. As the Chairman of the Council and the Legal Department will present reports more in detail on these subjects, I will not go into further detail concerning them.

I began this address with a eulogy of the natural environment in which you pursue your tasks.

I will close by congratulating you on being the best organized group of medical men in the world today and by praising you for having effected your well knit and interlocking organizations on an unselfish basis of service to the public.

But do not forget that while we are becoming better doctors we must also become better soldiers in this army that we have created because the forces of ignorance like those of evil will always be prepared for an attack and will ever select for their opponents, those who are of the greatest service to the world—the proponents of knowledge.

CAMPAIGN ISSUES.*

By DUDLEY A. SMITH, M. D., President of the League for the Conservation of Public Health
Santa Barbara, May 12, 1920

A year ago in this very room the League held its first luncheon at a convention of the State

*Read before the League for the Conservation of Public Health at the Forty-ninth Meeting of the Medical Society, State of California, Santa Barbara, California, May, 1920.

Medical Society. When we were invited to fill a similar place on this year's program we accepted gladly; for all the work that we have been doing has been for the upbuilding of the medical profession, and we have been successful in our work because we have received the untiring, enthusiastic and active co-operation of the medical profession throughout the State.

We told you last year that the League was a 365-day organization that was both on and on to its job, always ready for fight or frolic, for emergency or regular service. We had scarcely left Santa Barbara when we were called upon to make good our promises by doing heroic emergency work.

Whilst we physicians and surgeons were engaged in profound discussions and delightful exchange of erudite ideas down here by the opaline seas, a minority, that some considered negligible, impressed the Legislature so favorably and forcibly that the title of physician and surgeon, which we all prize as a precious possession, was whole-saled to this inferior minority at the bargain price of \$25.00 per title—and mark you, without any examination.

GOVERNOR VETOES BILL

The League wired the Governor and called his secretary on the long distance asking that his Excellency withhold his signature and accord us an opportunity to present arguments and show that this Osteopathic Bill was a menace to the public health. A brief stay of execution was granted. We were allowed 36 hours to mobilize our forces. A dozen long distance telephones got busy. Before the hour arrived for the hearing in Sacramento the Senate Chamber was filled with leading representatives of the profession from all sections of the State. Many who could not come on such brief notice wired the Governor reasons, in respectful language, why he should veto the bill. It was said by one of the doctors who attended that memorable meeting that if those who came in answer to that emergency summons were called into consultation to see a millionaire, the combined fee would be over a million. And the glory of that coming to Sacramento by the leading representatives of scientific medicine; that demonstration of interest in the public welfare was worth over a million to the public health of this State—when you pause to consider how the health of the men, women and children would have been jeopardized if hundreds, yes thousands, of incompetent men and women, without experience or training, would have been turned loose by that bill on an unsuspecting public with unlimited license to prescribe drugs and perform operations. It hardly seems possible at this distance from Sacramento, and especially in this scientific atmosphere, that a majority of the Legislature considered your title and mine worth only \$25.00. That, however, would be the law of the State to-day if it had not been for the well-directed efforts of the League.

In reviewing the medical legislation of this country, we find very few facts upon which to congratu-